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Maheu: I Played a Role In CIA Kill-Castro Plot

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, July 30 (News Bureau)—Robert Maheu, a former top aide to Howard Hughes, declared publicly today that he taken part in a Central Intelligence Agency plot to poison Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. But, he said, "the plan was always subject to a 'go' signal, which never came."

Drinan Bids U.S. Impeach Richard Helms

By FRANK VAN RIPER

Washington, July 30 (News Bureau) — Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.) introduced a resolution today calling for the impeachment of former CIA Director Richard M. Helms, so that Congress could compel testimony from him about "all of the abuses of the CIA."



Richard Helms is the U.S. Ambassador to Iran.

Drinan, who introduced the first impeachment resolution against President Nixon, said the CIA is still protected from prosecution by an "incredible" hands-off deal with the Justice Department.

"I have come to the conclusion," he said, "that the only certain remedy available to Congress and the country to find out about all of the abuses of the CIA and to remove from office one of the perpetrators of these abuses is to initiate an impeachment inquiry into the conduct of Richard Helms."

Domestic Spying

Drinan said that the activities Helms should be questioned about included domestic surveillance, the CIA role in the overthrow of the Allende government in Chile, alleged involvement in Watergate matters and in the trial of Daniel Ellsberg, and possible perjury before a congressional committee.

Most of the alleged CIA abuses now under investigation by Congress took place while Helms was CIA director from 1966 to 1973. Drinan said that Helms' current post as ambassador to Iran makes him a civil Constitution to the impeachment process.

Maheu, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is the first of the plotters recruited by the CIA to publicly reveal his role in the agency's alleged unsuccessful attempts on the life of Castro — attempts that reportedly extended through most of the 1960s. He made his disclosures at a press conference following two days of his closed-door testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is investigating the CIA and other intelligence bodies.

McGovern Delivers Summary

At the same time, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) handed over to the Senate committee a summary of evidence compiled by Castro purporting to outline 24 CIA-inspired plots on the lives of Castro and other Cuban leaders. McGovern, who visited Cuba in May and asked Castro to put together the list of alleged assassination attempts, said he had no way to verify the Cuban premier's allegations.

In handing over the summary to the Intelligence Committee's staff director, William Miller, McGovern said that much of it was "based on confessions, and I presume those people are still in prison."

"I do not know if they were tortured," the senator went on.

Maheu, now a Las Vegas businessman, said at his press conference that he had worked several years for the CIA on a retainer of \$500 a month. During the 1950s, he said, he provided "cover" for some CIA agents working overseas by listing them as employees of his public relations concern. While working for Hughes in 1960, he said, he was ordered by the CIA to take part in a plan to kill Castro.

Maheu said that his CIA project officer, whom he identified as James O'Connell, had asked him to recruit the mobster John Rosselli in a plot to poison Castro. Maheu said that Rosselli had at first been "reluctant" to engage in the plot, but that both Rosselli and an associate, Sam Giancana, a major underworld figure, were convinced that to do so "would be making a contribution to national security."

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